

Tips to Protect Your Money

- Use Direct Deposit for your checks so others don't have to cash them for you.
- Get on the National Do Not Call Registry. Call 888-382-1222 or visit www.donotcall.gov
- Be aware of scams! If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Cancel any credit or debit card that you do not use.
- Never give out your Social Security Number unless it's to someone you trust.
- Shred bank statements, solicitations, and financial records. Some financial records should be kept long-term like tax and loan documents. Keep these in a secure lock box.



If you suspect someone you know has been financially exploited please contact:

Frederick County Senior Services Division
Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
301-600-1234

Adult Protective Services
301-600-2635

www.frederickcountymd.gov

Need Immediate Assistance?

Call 911

Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Victim Services Unit
301-600-2164

Frederick City Police
Victim Services Unit
301-600-1356



FREDERICK COUNTY
Senior Services
DIVISION

Protect Your Money

Don't Become a Victim of Financial Exploitation



What Is Financial Exploitation?

Elder financial exploitation is the illegal or improper use of an older adult's funds, property, or resources by another individual. This exploitation can take many forms, including scams, abuse by trusted individuals such as family members or friends, and predatory products and services marketed specifically to older adults.

Examples of Financial Exploitation

- Making unauthorized withdrawals from financial accounts.
- Charging excessive fees for rent or caregiver services.
- Forging signatures on checks or other financial documents.
- Committing mail, person-to-person, internet, or telephone fraud scams.
- Tricking someone with memory impairment into giving away money.

What Can You Do to Protect Yourself?

- Simplify your finances, so that there are fewer accounts to oversee or regularly review.
- Authorize each of your financial institutions to contact 1-2 trusted individuals (such as an adult child or one's agent designated in a durable power of attorney), in case of suspicious financial activity.
- Draft your financial power of attorney (POA) document in a way that reduces the risk of abuse by appointing a trusted individual.



Ask for help

Financial matters can be confusing. You can ask for help from:

- an employee of a financial institution
- an attorney
- a trusted family member
- Adult Protective Services or contact your local Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Stay Connected

Social isolation increases your risk of becoming a victim of abuse. Find out about and participate in community programs like those offered at your local senior center.